

Applicant: Robert H. Osborn Jr.
Application Serial No.: 10/803,642
Filing Date: March 18, 2004
Docket No.: 577-596
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REMARKS

The application has been amended. Proposed drawing changes are submitted herewith for consideration by the Examiner. Furthermore, claim 1 of the application has been amended. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings under 35 U.S.C. §1.83(a). The Examiner contends that the gland nut as well as the sealing ring interposed between the gland nut and the body must be recited in claim1 . The Examiner suggests showing a reference numeral for the gland nut on the drawing.

Enclosed herewith is a proposed drawing change to Figure 1. Subject to the approval of the Examiner and upon an indication of allowable subject matter, formal drawings will be prepared incorporating the proposed change. As can bee seen in the attached drawing, the gland nut 14 is now properly labeled. Also as can been seen, sealing ring 16 is shown clearly interposed between gland nut 14 and body 30. It is believed that the Examiner's objection to the drawings are obviated by the proposed drawing change. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

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The Examiner has objected to the disclosure noting a perceived informality. On page 6, the Examiner contends that the term “DSM” should be spelled out completely. This determination is respectfully traversed.

DSM is not an abbreviation which can be spelled out. DSM is a part of an official company name for a company known as DSM Engineering Plastics. The Examiner is referred to the website of DSM Engineering Plastics which can be found at www.dsm.com. As DSM is a proper name of a company, there is no need for the term DSM to be “spelled out completely”. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Examiner contends that in claim 1, line 5, “a sealing ring interposed between said gland nut and said body” is confusing because it is not shown in the drawings.

In view of the drawing correction submitted herewith, this determination is respectfully traversed. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,929,383 to Marik et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,799,954 to Layer.

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Marik discloses a grounding coupling including a sealing ring 124 interposed between two other components. The Examiner acknowledges that Marik fails to disclose that the sealing ring is formed of high-temperature resistant materials. The Examiner then cites to the Layer reference which discloses a metallic sealing ring between two coaxial components. The Layer reference only discloses a metallic sealing ring. While the metallic sealing ring may be made of any high-temperature resilient material, only metallic components are used to form the Layer sealing ring.

In the present invention, the claimed sealing ring is formed of a plastic material where the material itself is both high-temperature resistant and resilient. These features allow the sealing ring to effect a seal between the gland nut and the body and also resist the high temperatures to which the gland nut is exposed. Rather than any particular shape of the sealing ring, it is the material itself which provides these properties. This arrangement is more fully described in paragraph 0018 of the specification.

As noted, Marik fails to provide any disclosure or suggestion of the use of high-temperature material. Layer, while disclosing a high-temperature resistant metal does not employ the material itself to effect a seal between the gland nut and a body, rather it is the configuration of the element and not the resilient characteristics of the material which are used to provide a seal.

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In the present invention, a sealing ring is provided which is formed of high-temperature resistant resilient plastic material. Thus, even if one were to combine Marik and Layer, the combination would still fail to disclose, teach or suggest a sealing ring which is formed of material where the material itself has the properties of being both high-temperature resistant and resilient plastic. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 defines patentably over the cited combination.

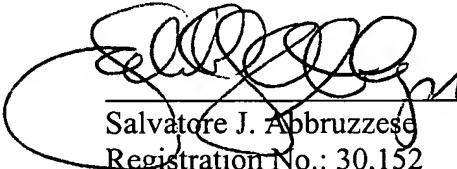
Having responded in full to the Examiner's Office Action, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-11 are now in condition for allowance. Favorable action thereon is respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees associated with this communication, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 08-2461. Such authorization includes authorization to charge fees for extensions of time, if any, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 and also should be treated as a constructive petition for an extension of time in this reply or any future reply pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136.

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Should the Examiner have any questions or comments concerning the above, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

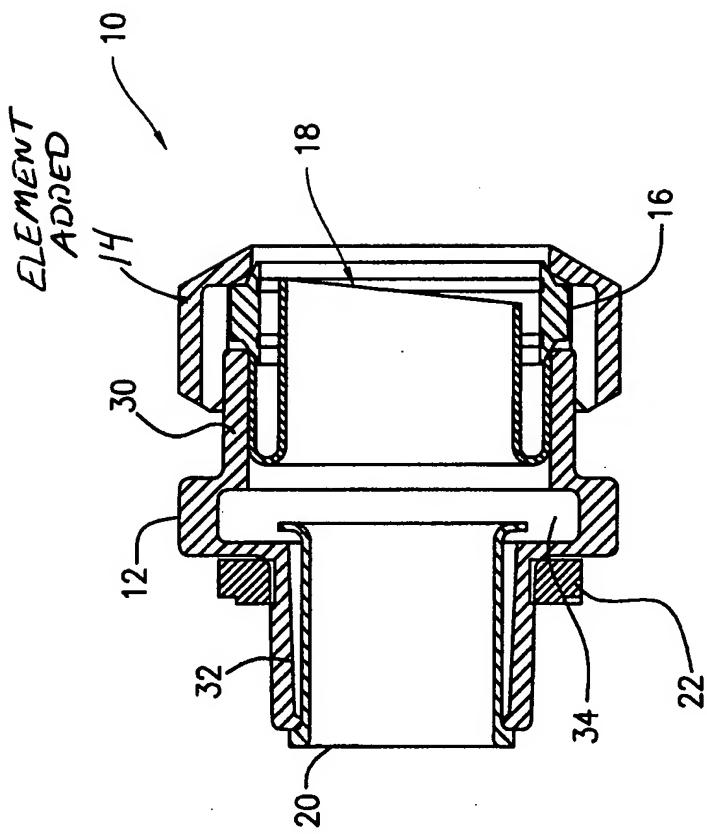


FIG. 1